GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1110
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
DECREASE IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR
Sai Shri Nand Kumar

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment in rural areas of the country is increasing every year;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission has pointed out that there has been a decrease in the employment opportunities in agriculture Sector in the country as reported in the Hindi daily the 'Hindustan' dated December 14, 2007;

(c) if so, the percentage of work force engaged in agriculture sector during the Tenth Five Year Plan as compared to the Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(d) the details of employment opportunities the Government proposes to generate in the Eleventh Five Year Plan in agriculture sector; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (e): As per quinquennial surveys on employment and unemployment, unemployment rate on Current Daily Status basis in rural areas of the country increased from 5.61% in 1993-94 to 8.28% in 2004-05.

The employment opportunities in absolute term in agriculture sector increased from 191.58 million to 200.40 million during 1993-94 to 2004-05 whereas percentage share of work force engaged in agriculture sector decreased from 61.03% in 1993-94 to 56.64% in 1999-2000 and further to 52.06% in 2004-05 in the total work force.
Eleventh Five Year Plan document approved by NDC has projected no increase in employment opportunities in Agriculture Sector. The projections of employment in 11th Plan indicate that 58 million employment opportunities will be created in the Eleventh Plan period. It states that additional employment opportunities in the future will be generated mainly in the services and manufacturing sectors, in particular, labour intensive manufacturing sectors such as food processing, leather products, footwear, and textiles, and service sectors such as tourism and construction.